

and the activities that have gone before that, we feel very strongly about this situation. We think this case has dragged on long enough. And if these matters really have not been resolved next week, I want to inform my colleagues that we will continue to object strenuously and Members should make plans accordingly.

Finally, I would like to make one other comment to my friend from Texas, and that is with respect to campaign finance reform. I recall the gentleman from Texas saying that he hoped that he would get to that issue before the end of this session, some comments to that effect, and I just want to inform him that we have close to 170 Members, if not 170, at the desk, who have signed a discharge petition, and we hope that issue will be brought to the floor so we can have a full debate of all the alternatives before the American people before we adjourn this session.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, let me first say again that I appreciate the gentleman's affirmation of commitment to his course of action with respect to the Sanchez matter. Let me just reaffirm our commitment on this side of the aisle that we will carry out our constitutional responsibilities regarding this question of the legitimacy of elections of our Members thoroughly, completely, and honestly to that conclusion which is defined by the facts of the matter when fully and completely understood. We can do no less. It is our duty under the Constitution.

Regarding the other matter, I guess the gentleman can proceed with his discharge petition and we will proceed with the business of the House and we will see if either of us get to somewhere.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I want to make the gentleman aware that it is a bipartisan discharge petition and we hope to have a little more bipartisan help on it as the days move ahead.

Let me also ask my colleague from Texas, I note in the schedule that we only have three suspensions scheduled for Tuesday next. Does the gentleman expect others might be added between now and next Tuesday?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank my friend from Michigan, and if he would continue to yield, we have some from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs that we have had fully vetted and cleared. We expect to perhaps complete the vetting and clearing with some others, and we will inform the gentleman's office as soon as possible.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed from H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the re-

quest of the gentlewoman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2527

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, because it might benefit me to the extent of \$5 a month, I now find out, that is \$5 before taxes, I also want to get my name removed from H.R. 2527.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, I was out of the Chamber at an intelligence briefing during the vote just held on the Interior appropriations bill conference report, rollcall No. 531. I would ask the RECORD to reflect that had I been present my vote would have been "nay."

INTRODUCTION OF RAIL SAFETY LEGISLATION

(Mr. WISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WISE. Mr. Speaker, quite rightly, today the subject has been Amtrak, but we need to be talking in this Congress about rail safety.

Yesterday, two Norfolk Southern trains collided head on in southern West Virginia. Again today a CSX train hit a tractor trailer at a grade crossing. Great tragedy was avoided because the tractor trailer had just unloaded an explosive mixture.

Yes, it is true that the Federal railroad agency is working with CSX, is working with Union Pacific, in a concerted effort to improve safety practices, but these are reactions. We need to be proactive.

So, Mr. Speaker, we need to have a coordinated approach, the kind of coordinated approach that is in the rail safety legislation that I have introduced and we are seeking to get a hearing on and to get debated on this floor; rail safety legislation that requires positive train separation devices, requires fatigue management plans, requires greater oversight of safety.

And, yes, Mr. Speaker, on Monday we will be unveiling Operation Respond,

which is a partial answer to some of the problems we have seen and which for the first time in our State will have emergency responders able to find out immediately upon arriving on the scene what hazardous materials are involved.

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INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

(Mr. SAXTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, there is a lot of talk currently about changing the Tax Code and doing away with the IRS, et cetera. I suspect that in some form or another, eventually we may get to do something significant with regard to that. But in the meantime, there is an issue which cries out for attention and that is the double taxation of savings under our current Tax Code.

Americans are dissuaded from saving, a very healthy activity that we all recognize; that is, savings. They are dissuaded because they tax money before it is saved and then we tax the returns on the money that is saved. That is why I recently introduced a bill to expand the individual retirement account provisions to include savings to be exempted for medical care, for education, for first-time home buyers, for unemployment as well as for retirement. These are all worthy goals, and I ask other Members to look seriously at this bill with an eye toward supporting our effort to reform and revise and expand the IRA provisions.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 1997, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina [Mrs. CLAYTON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

IN MEMORY OF DONALD OLSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota [Mr. GUTKNECHT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a special friend of mine who was called home to glory just in the past couple of weeks. On August 19, 1923, a baby was born to Melvin and Agnes Olson at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, WI. They named him Donald. Two weeks ago on